

Meeting called to order on May 7, 2013 at 1:00 p.m. by Monument Manager Rene Berkhoudt, the Designated Federal Official for the GSENM Advisory Committee (MAC).

MAC Members in Attendance: Bob Blackett (Geology), Steve Burr, Chair (Social Science), Dirk Clayson (Kane County Commissioner), Phil Hanceford (Environmental), Kevin Heaton (State), Don Lofgren (Paleontology), Camille Martineau (Tribal Interests), Norm McKee (Wildlife), Leland Pollack (Garfield County Commissioner), Jerry Spangler (Archaeology), and Keith Watts (Education)

MAC Members Excused from Meeting: Jim Bowns (Systems Ecology), Gordon “Boz” Bosworth (Botany), Mike Friedman (Outfitter/Guides), Steve Westhoff (Livestock Grazing-Permittee)

MAC Members Not Attending: N/A

Monument Staff In Attendance: Jabe Beal, Outdoor Recreation Planner; Matt Betenson, Assistant Monument Manager (AMM), Planning & Support Services; Larry Crutchfield, Public Affairs; Richard Madril, AMM, Resources; Kevin Miller, Science Program Administrator; Sarah Schlanger, Associate Monument Manager; and Carolyn Shelton, AMM, Science and Visitor Services

Non-Monument BLM Personnel in Attendance: Jenna Whitlock, Utah State BLM Associate Director

Other Agency Personnel in Attendance: None

Members of the Public in Attendance: Brian Bremner, Garfield County Engineer; Noel Poe, President, Grand Staircase Escalante Partners (GSEP); Larry Spino (sp), GSEP. Shanoff (sp)

Agenda

7 May 2013

Welcome/Introduction of Utah BLM State Director: Berkhoudt

Volunteer Award Presentation – Jenna Whitlock

Administrative Remarks: Crutchfield

Old Business: Burr (MAC Chairman)

- Review/Discuss/Approve October 2012 MAC Meeting Minutes
 - **Discussion:** None
 - **Motion to Approve –** Watts/McKee

▪ **Motion Approved** – Unanimously

MAC Chair Business – Burr

- Welcome/Introductions
- Homework
 - Steve Burr
 - Leland Pollock
 - Bob Blackett
 - Phil Hanceford
 - Don Lofgren
 - Keith Watts
 - Carmen Martineau
 - Jerry Spangler
 - Dirk Clayson
 - Norm McKee
 - Kevin Heaton
 - Mike Friedman (Burr read)
 - Boz Bosworth (Burr read)
- ACTION: Burr asks each member to prepare a paragraph about themselves, and if possible include a photo; send to Crutchfield for posting on the BLM GSENM website.

Manager's Report

- See presentation
- Question from Burr regarding LWCT acquisitions
- Pollock responded
- Berkhoudt responded
- Hanceford – concerned that ecologist & hydrologist be filled with the upcoming EIS planning effort.
- Clayson spoke
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Division Briefs

Planning Division Report (Betenson)

- See presentation
- **Sequestration Update**
 - 7.5% Reduction to BLM Budget
 - GSENM ~\$360k recession
 - BLM Hiring Freeze Unless Exempted
 - 1 Permanent (Planning & Environmental Coordinator); detail for ORP
 - 3 Seasonal Employees and 3 Student Hires

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- Delay in bringing on exempted seasonal staff
 - Unfilled, frozen positions
 - Ecologist; Soil, Air and Water Specialist; Maintenance Worker
 - 7 Hosted Workers not returning
 - GSENM planned 3 seasonal staff:
 - Science Tech., Rec. Tech., GIS Tech.
 - Difficulty finding funds for visitor center staffing
 - Contracting frozen for most of spring
 - IT “Tech Refresh” delayed
 - Using computers from 2006
 - **Position Management**
 - Planning and Environmental Coordinator
 - Vacated Feb. 23
 - Exempted position, currently announced
 - Expect to select by mid-June
 - Maintenance Staff from Escalante caught in Hiring Freeze
 - 1 permanent caught in hiring freeze
 - 1 long-term seasonal was exempted but individual declined
 - Monument-wide support to keep facilities open
 - **Administration Group**
 - Constant Budget projections and oversight
 - Payroll, Travel, Monthly Credit Card Tracking
 - Supporting the Visitor Centers as needed
 - **Maintenance Group**
 - Keeping Facilities Clean and Open
 - Campgrounds & SSTs
 - Significant Water Line Break at Glendale Contact Station
 - Calf Creek Water Treatment System
 - Deer Creek Campground – hazardous tree removal
 - Facilities Assets Management System (FAMS) Inventory
 - **Planning**
 - Preparation Work for Livestock Grazing Plan Amendment and EIS
 - Statement of Work for Contracts being prepared
 - Lake Powell Pipeline
 - Spangler – why are we involved in Lake Powell pipeline.
 - Matt responded
 - Sarah responded
 - Climbing & Canyoneering EA for SRPs
 - Assessment of Dry Fork Slot Canyons
 - **Current NEPA Projects**
 - Center Knoll EA: Spring Development
 - New development in WSA

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- Public comment period completed, reviewing comments
 - Nephi Pasture Trail Head EA
 - Decision record signed 10/15/12
 - Contract being let; expect to be built by mid-summer
 - Dance Hall Rock Parking Area Development EA
 - Public comment period completed, reviewing comments; Church History Department Visit
 - GSENM Weed Programmatic EA
 - Public comment period completed, reviewing comments
 - Other projects
 - 5 Energy ROW renewals
 - Henrieville Irrigation Ditch ROW
 - Film Permits 1 issued; many inquiries
 - **Paria Riverbank Stabilization**
 - Cottonwood Road washed out by Paria River
 - GSENM Completed a DNA to support repair work contracted by Kane County with funding from NRCS
 - Original EA completed in 2007
 - Work Involved Rip Rap Repair and Willow Planting
 - Hanceford – concerned with the speed at which it happened.
 - **R.S. 2477 Litigation Status – Kane 1**
 - Judge Waddups issued an opinion that quieted title in favor of Kane County to 12 of 15 roads; four of which are on the Monument.
 - Status Quo Management – more to follow
 - **Tour of Utah**
 - Professional, High Profile Bike Race
 - Stage 2: Panquitch to Torrey; August 7th
 - Along SR63/HWY-12 within UDOT Right-of way
 - Rolling closures with 20 UHP
 - 130 riders with 100 support vehicles
 - 2 airships
 - **Special Recreation Permit Program**
 - Currently GSENM has 78 authorized Special Recreation Permit (SRPs)
 - SRP Programmatic EA (10/15/12) is proving valuable
 - 4 Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNAs) with another 7 expected
 - Analysis includes day hikes, backpacking, horseback riding, ATV tours, auto and bus tours, photography workshops, educational institutions, and mountain biking.
 - Does not review wilderness therapy programs, climbing, or canyoneering.
 - **Outfitter and Guides Workshop**
 - March 8, 2013, 65 people, Escalante, Utah

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- Topics included Resource Education and Conservation, Risk Assessment , and Search and Rescue
 - Excellent Feedback
 - **New Branding for NLCS**
 - Effective February 19, 2013
 - National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS) branding – 10 year anniversary
 - New "National Conservation Lands" abbreviated name and wordmark
 - **Escalante Canyons Artist in Residence Program**
 - New NLCS initiative – supported by BLM WO-420 Division of Education, Interpretation & Partnerships
 - Piloted FY2012 at GSENM and Canyon of the Ancients NM
 - Continuing in FY2013 – 6 applicants
 - Partnership project – GSENM, Envision Escalante, Escalante Canyons Art Festival Committee
 - ECAF Residency details include:
 - 2 week or 1 month option - September
 - Two community events/projects required
 - Exhibit of work during arts festival
 - **Head of the Rock Wayside Construction Project**
 - Partnership project – GSENM, UDOT, Scenic Byway 12 Foundation
 - Project includes:
 - ADA viewing platform
 - Delineated parking and separate from highway travel lanes
 - Drainage and erosion control
 - Completed Nov. 2012
 - UDOT Enhancement Funding - \$140K
 - Harward & Rees (Wayne County company) contractor
 - **HWY 89 Wildlife Crossings**
 - GSENM awarded a Public Lands Highway Grant (FHWA) \$1.525 Mil to construct Phase 2 of the US-89 Wildlife Crossings Construction Project
 - Partner contributions (UDOT, DWR, Kane County, sportsmen groups, etc.) = \$1.020 Mil
 - UDOT is project Lead
 - Project includes:
 - four (4) undercrossings
 - 11.5 miles of fencing on both sides of ROW
 - Project will:
 - improve motorist safety along US-89 between Kanab, Utah and Page, Arizona
 - reduce deer mortality for Paunsaugunt Deer Herd
 - reduce costs to public associated with deer vehicle collisions

Resources Division Report: Madril

- See presentation
- **WO/SO/GSENM Paria River Monitoring**
- **Environmental Education**
 - Working through the Schools in Kane and Garfield Counties
 - *Krascheninnikovia lanata* (Pursh) Native Seed
 - Willow Transplants
 - GPS/IT Technology Training
 - May 20-21 2013 PBS Filming
- **National Society of Range Management** – Monument staff presented papers at the National Conference
- **Coordinated Management**
 - Coordinated work with Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, and Grazing Permittees to remove the Soda “Cabin”. The Trailer was used to replace the Line Cabin that was vandalized and burnt down
 - GSENM and GCNRA are awaiting the proposal to restore the Line Cabin in its previous position at the 50 Mile Spring and corrals.
 - The new structure, when put in place will and can be utilized by Grazing Permittees, Garfield County Employees While working in the area, BLM employees, and stranded travelers needing a place of rescue.
 - USFS Tree Monitoring
 - Every five years transects are re-read and we help them get to where they need to go
- **Vegetation**
 - Two projects – both showed significant improvement in three years
 - Sand Spring
 - Wildcat Spring

State Director’s Brief – Jenna Whitlock, Utah BLM Associate State Director

- Juan asked me to extend his regrets. I believe he’s attended every MAC meeting since he got to Utah; unfortunately he had other commitments. He wanted me to pass that he sincerely values your service and regrets for not being here.
- I’ll just give a two minute introduction of myself. I came to Utah BLM last summer. I was in the BLM headquarters before moving out to Utah. And in case you’re worried that this also was made in New York City, you should know that most of my 30 year career has been kicking around the Great Basin. I started with BLM in Northeast Nevada – in Elko as a range conservationist. From there...I can’t remember if I literally through a dart or figuratively through one, but I ended up moving to Eugene, Oregon and worked in BLM’s Western Oregon forestry program – I traded in my AUMs for board feet...and got my start in management. From there I

went to Boise, Idaho and managed the Owyhee Field Office, which is about 3 million acres in the southwest corner of Idaho and from there worked in the headquarters office. I did two years as a Fellow in the Senate; and I also worked in the department in the assistance secretary's office...and did not get out of there before working in the Wild Horse and Burro Program. That's a little bit about me...I thought I'd share some of what is happening nationally and at the state level before we get closer to home.

- Biggest news – about three weeks ago the senate confirmed our new Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell. She is on the job. I watched her first town hall meeting with employees – in addition to being super smart she has a great sense of humor. I think it will be good to work under Secretary Jewell.
- Rene talked a little bit already about sequestration...so shifting to Utah, we have underway a planning effort for sage grouse. I'll give you the short version. I'm sure you're aware that the Fish and Wildlife Service has found that the sage grouse is suitable for listing. By 2016 they have to make a decision of what to do with the grouse. In these intervening years, all the federal agencies are getting regulatory mechanisms into place, which for BLM means amending our land use plans. So we are working on an EIS and Plan Amendment for 13 BLM plans in Utah and six Forest Service Plans. We are working with our cooperating agency right now on developing the draft EIS and expect to have it out and published by the end of this summer/early fall. The state (Utah) just finished and released their plan; and their proposal will be an alternative in our land use plan amendment.
- A few other things that are going on...we're being crisscrossed by transmission lines...we must be like the creamy center of Oreo cookie – between where the power is being generated and where power is being used. We have a number of transmission lines and big associated EIS projects underway across the state. Later this week, Juan and the Governor will be cutting the ribbon on the Sigurd to Red Butte transmission line.
- We have some critical leadership vacancies in the state. We had three field office manager positions that were vacant. For two of three we have made selections – Monticello and Moab. The Salt Lake Field Office manager is also vacant and is being advertised right now. That was one of those that had to go up to the department for approval because of sequestration and we received that approval. And we are very close to making a selection on the Canyon Country district manager position.
- We also lost an institution in our state office – Sheldon Wimmer who was our state fire management officer for...forever as far as I can tell just retired, so we will be looking to fill that important position soon.
- Both Congress and our Washington BLM office is whipping and spurring on grazing permit renewals and we are being encouraged to move that along. As you may know, BLM in general has been using appropriation rider language to renew grazing permits without a full NEPA analysis. We have also been doing a lot of NEPA analysis and issuing permits...but when we are unable to get the NEPA the appropriation

rider has been used. This isn't just a BLM Utah kind of thing – this is a West-wide effort to work on our backlog for range permit renewal.

- Rene also made mention of recreation exchange. That was a legislative change that Congress passed a bill in 2009 directing the exchange. It's 46,000 acres of state land for 36,000 acres of BLM land. It will all be based on fair market value and appraisals. The counties that are involved are Grand, San Juan, and Uinta County. The concept is that the state will be picking up lands that are more suitable for energy development and the BLM will be picking up lands for recreation, conservation and protection. I bring that up because just a few weeks ago, we released an environmental assessment for public comment. I think the public comment period ends May 17th. It is our hope to have that completed by the end of the calendar year.
- Lastly on the statewide front, we're really swamped –we have job security with litigation. I won't go into an exhaustive list of what's going on...but we received a case management order from Judge Waddoups to deal with some of the road claims the state has made across all of Utah. Most of the cases are on hold; but with this case management order the judge set in motion two Garfield County cases and two Kane County cases. This will become an enormous workload for the BLM. The four cases cover more than 1,500 roads. Compare that to the 15 roads we just adjudicated in Kane County – the order of magnitude is a little bit mind boggling.
- I also wanted to update you on the grazing EIS. Last fall when Juan was here he brought everyone up to speed on BLM's plan for the EIS. We have not started an EIS or plan amendment yet; but we do plan to formally kick off an EIS/plan amendment for the Monument that will be narrowly focused on the allocation for grazing and livestock management later this summer, likely June or July when we issue the NOI – the Notice of Intent – which is what kicks off the formal planning process. Also, we plan to contract the EIS to a third party. On the good news front, we were able to secure funding from our Washington office for that contract for the grazing EIS. Rene is close to sending out letters inviting cooperators to join the effort. And I think, just to be clear, the amendment will be focused on that high level allocation. Our past efforts, everything I think including the kitchen sink got thrown into the EIS including permit renewal. We are not doing that this time. This will be a narrowly focused amendment on just those areas where we have concerns.
- I think Juan also engaged the MAC in conversation about a collaborative discussion with stakeholders to try to build a foundation before we go into a formal planning process...to foster discussion and exchange of ideas. In January of this year, shortly after the last MAC meeting, BLM was approached by some folks that were interested in a collaborative discussion outside the constraints of a FACA committee. The MAC is a FACA committee. It is a structured way the BLM can take recommendations. The adhoc group that formed is proposing to meet outside of FACA – it is looking like we will be able to work with them. We were looking at different options to run a collaborative. One would be through this committee

(MAC), a MAC subcommittee. In this instance, the BLM could be heavily engaged in the discussions. If we are outside of FACA, then BLM does not manage or control the group. We can participate with the group to provide information as requested – and this is the route we’ve decided to pursue. We are exploring the possibility of BLM providing a facilitator for the group. With that said, we still see a very robust role for the MAC – the plan amendment and EIS take on average two to three years to do and we certainly hope the MAC will be heavily engaged in all the major milestones.

Draft BLM – Utah NLCS Strategic Plan – Bunny Sterin, SO NLCS Lead; Steve Burr, State RAC Member

ACTION: Send out email with direct link to Utah NLCS strategy goal. Crutchfield

Action: MAC members input to strategy to Larry

1700 - Public comment period: Burr opened the meeting for public comment.

- **Laura Welp** commented on MAC has a great opportunity to ensure science is used to manage the monument. Monument needs help; short key staff; MAC can help. Use science/data. Think about having the BLM take you out in the field to help understand what you are looking at on the ground.
- **Linda Starr** commented: Great old broads for Wilderness. Management decisions should be based on research and science. Use the data for decision making; don’t make decisions emotionally. Wilderness managed with more care and more thought.
- **Rose Chilcoat** commented: Great Old Broads – here working on Russian olive. Thank you MAC for supporting EIS going forward in a collaborative manner that will lead to improvements on the Monument. Think about the ecological outcome.
- **Janet Kilbride** commented: I’m not from around here. I hope you know that what you are doing is good for the planet. You are making people like us feel good when you do this work.
- **Kenneth Ure** commented: I need to talk about grazing. When we discuss absolutes, many time they turn out to be wrong; elimination is not necessarily the absolute. Comments made about not having a hydrologist...proclamation says it was unspoiled...grazing was here then.
- **Jerry Roundy** commented: Escalante Heritage Center – we’re here to preserve our heritage. Hope MAC could be supportive of any improvements that could be made on HITS to allow access to people of all ages. Restrooms are needed down HITS.
- **Ronni Egan** commented: private citizen...recently retired from GOB...I have spent a lot of time on the Monument. Many arch sites destroyed by cows rubbing up against them. Lots of rules for human; cows can’t read and don’t know. We were excited when the Monument was designated; we expected that things would

improve, not just arch, but landscape in general. I hope MAC can address the impacts of domestic livestock on this precious landscape. I want responsible, sustainable grazing...not elimination. But there are not many places around here that can do that. I hear a lot about older folks not being able to get out on the ground. I did it. Just because we've done something for a hundred years doesn't mean it should still be done.

- **Karen Ryman** commented: Great Old Broads – we've been working on the Russian olive removal....I'm from Aspen, I understand how things change. We are not against grazing. We don't want to see grazing taken from Escalante; just grazed in the right place.
- **Link Chynoweth** commented: I am a fourth generation grazer...on the same allotment my ancestors grazed.
- **Ivan Getting** comment: I live on the high plains in Colorado...I am a farmer, not a rancher. I am also an experimental physicist. I have raised livestock and put up hay. I fear the ranchers as a precious resource. There are people who know the land in a way that scientists may take years to understand. Your job is to unscramble the eggs...it can't be done...but you have to try.

1800 - Meeting Adjourned: Chair/DFO

May 8, 2013

The land health field trip scheduled to start this morning at 7:30 was cancelled due to inclement weather that led to extremely poor and potentially dangerous road conditions. Call to cancel was made by Chair/DFO.

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Schlanger, Associate Monument Manager; and Carolyn Shelton, AMM, Science and Visitor Services

Non-Monument BLM Personnel in Attendance: Jenna Whitlock, Utah State BLM Associate Director

Other Agency Personnel in Attendance: None

8:00 Meeting Called to Order: Chair/DFO

Science and Visitor Services Division Report:

- **Science Program**
 - Ongoing Research Projects
 - 50 total research projects on GSENM right now
 - Approx. 150 different researchers
 - 28 ongoing multi-year research projects
 - 5 new projects 2013; 8 new projects 2012
 - New Research projects
 - The Permian-Triassic Boundary/Early Triassic in Transcaucasian pelagic sections
 - Lucyna Leda Skonieczna, Natural History Museum Berlin (PhD student)
 - Examine early Triassic microbialites to determine mode of deposition
 - Insect population diversity: systematic biology/life history of SW moth species
 - John Gruber, Friends' Central School & Jason Weintraub, Academy of Natural Sciences
 - Explore insect diversity with focus on moths and taxonomy/host plant associations
 - Chronostratigraphic delineation of muddy Entrada Sandstone in central Utah
 - Toby Dossett, BYU (MS student)
 - Construct a sequence stratigraphic model for a portion of the Entrada Sandstone
 - Geomorphology/geochronology of andesitic boulder deposits - Escalante Canyons
 - David Marchetti & Amy Ellwein, Western State Colorado U
 - Scott Hynek & Thure Cerling, U of Utah

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- Study the andesitic boulder deposits around southern Boulder Mountain
 - Phylogeography & evolution of *Mentzelia cronquistii* (Cronquist's blazingstar)
 - Larry Hufford, Washington State U
 - Wendy Hodgson, Desert Botanical Garden, Phoenix, AZ
 - Explore how geographic and topographic complexity shape migration routes, gene flow, and plant speciation
 - Research Projects under development
 - Effects of Russian olive removal on soil nitrogen, plant communities and secondary invasions
 - Andrew Norton, Colorado State U and Gabrielle Katz, Appalachian State U (NC)
 - Assess recovery site plant communities and soil N, develop ecosystem conceptual models, provide information and promote collaboration on recovery
 - Pending funding from Western Integrated Pest Management Center
 - Predicting invasive plant impact to improve management decisions
 - Andrew Norton, Colorado State U and Gabrielle Katz, Appalachian State U (NC)
 - Assess variations in Russian olive impact, identify impact mechanisms on riparian ecosystems, develop management strategy based on mechanisms
 - Pending funding from USDA National Institutes of Food and Agriculture
 - (untitled) Ecology/range
 - Mary O'Brien and others, Grand Canyon Trust
 - Updating and refining ecological site descriptions
 - (untitled) Ecology/range
 - Laura Welp and others, Western Watershed Project
 - Resource conditions in recent and past treatments; comparisons between grazed areas and ungrazed exclosures
 - Assessment, Inventory and Monitoring project (AIM)
 - National strategy for uniform inventory, assessment, and monitoring of BLM-managed resources
 - Will inform managers and public on key processes needed to maintain sustainable ecosystems
 - Initial focus on terrestrial and aquatic natural resources

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- Pilot implementation projects: one per state
 - Utah's pilot is GSENM: begins 2013 with sampling design and initial sampling
 - **Cultural**
 - Excavations at the Arroyo Site, 42Ka3976: A Pueblo II/III Virgin Anasazi Farmstead
 - Published report: GSENM Special Publication Nº 3 (Utah Cultural Resource Series Nº 27)
 - Excavation & visitor center archaeology exhibit in Kanab
 - Meadow Canyon Archaeology Inventory & Pollen Core
 - Project area east of Johnson Canyon; core to be taken from damp meadow
 - University of Utah volunteers inventory in project area
 - **Botany**
 - Seeds of Success Program
 - Two youth interns with Chicago Botanic Garden begin work in June
 - Acquired \$45K from BLM budget to fund project
 - Collect seed from 15 to 30 plant species
 - Target species will include those identified by the Native Plant Development Program to increase native seed specific to the Colorado Plateau restoration needs.
 - Endangered/Threatened Species
 - Kodachrome Bladderpod (*Lesquerella tumulosa*)
 - Federal listed endangered 1993.
 - Endemic occurs only in Kane County, UT; 90% of range on GSENM.
 - Locations subject to off-road vehicle use & livestock trampling.
 - Protection: Fence construction reduced OHV use; LEO patrols; not preferable livestock location.
 - Annual monitoring.
 - Ute Ladies' Tresses (*Spiranthes Diluvialis*)
 - Federal listed threatened 1992.
 - Habitat loss/stream flow timing & magnitude Trampled by livestock & recreationists.
 - Protection: in Deer Ck livestock out Apr-Nov when seeding.
 - Annual monitoring.
 - Jones Cycladenia (*Cycladenia humilis var. jonesii*)
 - Federal listed threatened 1986.
 - Ancient (since Cretaceous 65 MYA).
 - Possible threat from climate change.
 - Protection: grows on very steep rocky slopes in So. UT/No. AZ.

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- Two youth interns will be surveying possible habitat/work begins June.
 - Funds are from USFWS to determine population numbers.
 - Escalante River Watershed Partnership (ERWP)
 - Grant funding received:
 - UT Watershed Restoration Initiative \$133K
 - Conservation Lands Foundation (CLF) \$15K
 - BLM \$20K
 - Walton Family Foundation ~ \$450K
 - ERWP was nominated, again to be recognized by the America's Great Outdoors – Rivers Initiative
 - Two interns began March 18
 - Crew training August 19
 - Russian olive removal begins August 26
 - Up to 8 crews of 8 youth (64 total) will work at Death Hollow, Sand Creek, Calf Creek, and Harris Wash (GLCA) – funding dependent
 - Crew of 4 will work in upper Alvey Wash
 - **Paleontology on GSENM**
 - "The Kaiparowits Plateau contains a remarkable record, currently the best in the world, of vertebrate evolution from the Late Cenomanian through the Campanian."
 - "This record of Cretaceous vertebrates is significant globally and land management policies should serve to protect this remarkable resource."

Eaton & Cifelli, 1997
Learning From the Land Symposium
 - **Paleo Program**
 - Monument Paleontologist
 - 1 Field Seasonal
 - 1 Lab manager/Volunteer Coordinator- GSEP hosted worker(funding ends August, 2013)
 - 10 regular volunteers/approximately 20-25 intermittent volunteers
 - School and public tours
 - 1000 acres new inventory
 - Collection/data recordation/research on 10 sites
 - Monitor 50 high priority or recovering sites
 - Gave/produced 40 presentations, school programs, interpretive products
 - Published Indiana University Press (IUP) book
 - 625 page technical volume "*At the Top of the Grand Staircase*" submitted April, 2013 for final layout.
 - Expected release fall 2013.
 - Collaborated with partners to publish 2 peer-reviewed papers.
 - Major Paleo Partners Fielding Teams for 2 or more weeks:

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- Natural History Museum of Utah
 - Denver Museum of Nature and Science
 - Alf Museum
 - Missouri Southern State University/ George Washington University
 - Weber State University
- **Paleontology WOW!**
 - Denver Museum of Nature and Science
 - Secured National Geographic grant for helicopter support in 2013.
 - Magazine article and possible TV show to follow.
 - National Geographic crew on site in May for scouting.
 - i2P (Impossible 2 Possible) mid-May
 - Outdoor youth challenge with educational component.
 - Five youth ambassadors run full marathon each of 7 straight days and engage in science-based outreach via live satellite broadcasts.
 - Learn about paleontology, archaeology, ecology, and wilderness on GSENM.
 - New GSENM dinosaurs to be named in 2013
 - **(Lofgren):** What happened to the lab manager position?
 - **(Shelton):** Our contribution to Partners ended this year; there is no more money available. We are trying to look at alternative ideas; Partners is trying to raise money...but as it is now, come August, we have no more money to fund the position.
 - **(Lofgren):** With the new building...and the lab...and the volunteer program operating at the level it is now, isn't it counterproductive to not have a lab manager?
 - **(Shelton):** For a long time we didn't have a lab manager; all those duties were performed by our paleontologist, Alan Titus. We'll just have to go back to that...and that will cause a real slowdown in our research/work.
 - **(Poe):** As Carolyn said, we are working closely with the Monument to keep that position available and filled; and we will continue to seek additional funds for the position.
 - **(Lofgren):** I would strongly recommend that we do everything possible to keep that position in the paleo lab.
 - **Soils, Hydrology, Air**
 - Soils scientist/hydrologist position
 - half-time (remote) since Dec 2012
 - vacant since Mar 2013 (Jack retired)
 - Hiring freeze—will not fill this FY
 - Science Program Admin. (Miller) collateral duty
 - Limited soils, hydrology, air priorities
 - NEPA interdisciplinary team

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- Water quality and climate monitoring
 - Water rights
 - Abandoned mine closures
 - Salinity control planning
 - Groundwater study (USGS)
 - **Interpretation and Education**
 - Native Plant Project
 - With Monument staff & volunteers, local students collect native seeds, grow out in school greenhouse, and plant on GSENM
 - Monument Friends group, Grand Staircase-Escalante Partners is a key player
 - BLM WO and *Hands on the Land* to use as model for other agencies
 - PBS's "This American Land" will film segment featuring the project
 - Audubon Christmas Bird Count
 - Partnership with Audubon Society, NPS, GSEP, GCNHA, D/ASIA, BCNHA, SWF, BLM KFO and Kane, Garfield, Page and Fredonia schools
 - Martin Tyner gave "Wild Birds of Prey" presentations to ~4,000 students and residents
 - Earth Day Festival
 - Attended by over 800 people over 600 students submitted entries for Poster Contest
 - Class fieldtrips (May)
 - Kanab and Big Water VCs hosting over 500 K-3rd grade students
 - **Visitor Services**
 - 4 GSENM Visitor Centers + 2 contact stations
 - Have been **very busy** this spring:
 - March total: 7370
 - April total: 12,798
 - Sequestration resulted in Visitor Centers operating fewer hours with fewer staff
 - Two park ranger vacancies in Escalante – Hiring Freeze
 - **(Watts):** How do the visitation numbers compare to previous years?
 - **(Shelton):** Very similar. May is when our numbers really start to climb; June begins to drop...but we have noticed that summer visitation has actually been increasing. It used to be that spring & fall were our heavy seasons of use; but now I think it safe to say spring, fall and summer.
 - **Recreation**
 - New trailhead signs are being designed
 - Will be placed at 10 routes on GSENM
 - Campground Business Plan 2013
 - Current rates

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- Calf Creek Campground \$7./night
 - Deer Creek Campground \$4./night
 - Whitehouse Campground \$5./night
 - Amenities
 - Campsites
 - Parking
 - Picnic tables
 - Creek access
 - Drinking water
 - Group camping
 - Toilets
 - Accessibility
 - Labor and operational costs to maintain campgrounds
 - Improving visitor safety
 - Improving access to visitor orientation & educational information
 - Better protection of natural resources
 - Potential increase of campground overnight and day-use facility fees
 - Next steps: Public outreach and BLM Utah RAC
 - **(Whitlock):** What is the timing of your business plan?
 - **(Shelton):** In draft right now and we have heard that the next RAC meeting they will not be reviewing any business plans; so we'll be looking to present the plan at the following RAC in late fall/early winter.
 - **Questions?**
 - **(Hanceford):** The AIM initiative seems significant...glad to see the GSENM is in the pilot...is there funding and what are you doing?
 - **(Schlanger):** We have three projects going that are part of the AIM pilot. One is to develop a sampling design for the Monument to determine where we are going to do the monitoring. The next step is to establish a set of 25 points to be monitored. The next step is a study to determine how we can marry up our historic data from all our monitoring programs with this national sampling scheme. This will be a long term project.
 - **(Betenson):** I'd just like to add that we are looking at how we can incorporate the AIM information in the adaptive management piece of the EIS.
 - **(Watts):** What is the progress of science plan?
 - **(Shelton):** There is a little progress; but not much...mainly because Kevin Miller has also been acting as the Monument hydrologist and ecologist as well as the science program administrator. We have been working on the recreation and botany sections of the plan.

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- **(Hanceford):** The Colorado Plateau Rapid Ecological Assessment was released a couple of months ago. Have you thought about incorporating some of that data? Sarah answers
 - **(Schlanger):** Utah BLM is in the process of drafting a sort of “step down” strategy for bringing the REA data down into a Utah-level project. We’ve just been briefed on the draft strategy and it includes a serious amount of work. Learning how to use the information and how to apply will be a challenge. The Monument will be working with the State Office to learn how to use and apply that large data base on local projects and to teach other BLMers how to use it for Resource Management planning. So our strategy in the state is to learn by doing essentially.
 - **(Burr):** I want to bring up later this issue of visitor center hours. As you all remember, Juan said I he would support keeping those VCs staffed and open. The MAC may need to comment on that issue again.

Update on Visitor Experience Baseline Study (Betenson)

- Allysia Angus is the lead on the project.
- Purpose: To help the BLM better respond to the public’s desires and expectations for how recreation on the Monument is managed.
- The idea behind using focus groups is to open dialogue between GSENM and the public on recreation issues, to provide information for future planning efforts and project assessments, and to gather data needed to better understand the public’s desired outcomes for recreation management in the Hole in the Rock Road area.
- Conducted by Colorado Mesa University, Dr. Tim Casey
 - Cooperative Agreement established September 2012
 - Documenting and understanding visitor experience will allow GSENM to track changes through time and manage appropriately
 - Study to include both focus groups and intercept interviews
 - Funded by NLCS Science Grant and Recreation Fees
 - Phase 1 - HTR corridor using focus groups
 - Orientation site visit took place for October 19-21
 - First Phase of Community Assessments Completed
- Additional sessions will be schedule through September, both in face-to-face meetings as well as digital, web-based ones.
- In these sessions, dates yet to be determined, participants from far and wide can join the conversation from the comfort of their homes using a phone and computer.
- **(Clayson):** It’s pretty easy to find solitude in most areas on the Monument; but in some of the more popular, heavier visited areas, how do we accommodate visitors’ needs and demands without setting a lot of limits? I don’t know the answer to that question but I think we need to wrestle with and come up with some ideas.
- **(Betenson):** This survey is just getting us the baseline inventory of what the visitor are doing right now and what are their expectations. We know we are getting

increasing pressure on HITS, which is why it was selected for the first baseline study. We have also completed a programmatic environmental assessment for large group use along the HITS. We also know there are some human waste issues in the Dry Fork area...but this study will help get the baseline data together for analysis.

- **Questions?**

- **(McKee):** Perhaps we can lengthen our tourism season; if you want solitude, come in the off season...as long as the resource itself is not damaged.
- **(Rose Chilcoat):** How are you getting other people's ideas if they are not in the hotels, etc.?
 - **(Betensen):** Not sure we can factor that into this study. The point of this work is to determine the experiences of the people actively using the Monument at this time. But you make a great point. I will talk with our lead to see if there is a way we can get that input.
- **(Spangler):** Are the studies measuring why they are coming – the different types of resources people are coming for?
 - **(Betensen):** That is a piece of it; but mostly, what is the purpose of the trip – are they looking for a slot canyon experience or solitude; what are their expectations and are those being met.
 - **(Discussion):** Spangler expressed concern for Monument cultural/archaeology sites and potential damage by visitors. A lengthy discussion ensued concerning the loss to science that can occur with visitor access and ways to mitigate or eliminate the damage or provide alternatives. Some of the ideas presented ranged from hardening certain cultural sites to allow visitation to a complete ban on backcountry travel in certain areas. The latter idea was strongly opposed. Good topic for future discussions.
- **(Hanceford):** MAC can have a role helping Monument management deal with current and future visitor experience/science conflicts. Regarding this study, MAC members can get the word out to the constituencies about how to sign-up and participate in these studies. Perhaps using webinars as a tool would be another way to get increased participation.
 - **(Betensen):** Right now we are just getting the community piece but in the future, we are looking into doing just that.

Update on ASU Appreciative Inquiry Study (Berkhoudt)

- Provided the MAC with the background on how the project got started through the President's Tourism Initiative and the NLCS desire to support both the President's effort and improve the economies of rural communities surrounding the Monument through tourism.

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- The Appreciative Inquiry Study was designed to determine ways to bolster tourism and to increase income streams and diversify the economies while stressing conservation and historic values.
 - AI process involved conducting initial community interviews so researchers could get to know the people and to learn their values and concerns. Researchers came in with a clean slate; no preconceived opinions or ideas.
 - Next phase was conducting “mini-AIs” – community meetings of the gateway communities; followed by an April 19th AI Summit held at Ruby’s Inn in Bryce Canyon City. We do not have the results yet; expect final report in early to mid-summer. Results will be made public.
 - **(Burr):** ASU made it clear at the Summit that the outcome of this study is not a tourism development plan, but a series of recommendations that can be incorporated into a community tourism plan developed by the gateway communities themselves.
 - **(Pollock):** Garfield County wants to recognize the Utah BLM State Director, Juan Palma, for pursuing this effort and for recognizing these small rural communities need help.

Science Subcommittee Report (Clayson)

- **(Burr):** Clayson and I had a discussion and determined that at this time, there was really nothing for this committee to report.
- **(Clayson):** The science program administrator, Kevin Miller, had to assume additional duties brought on by two staff vacancies. This additional workload took Kevin away working on the Monument Science Plan, the review of which is why the science subcommittee was formed.
 - The subcommittee was having difficulty finding focus. Found ourselves collecting reference material of how to conduct scientific studies rather than determining and reviewing goals of the plan. We needed a new template of how to do our work. Kevin found a template that will guide us to producing a document that is useable.
 - At this point, I believe we can move forward with the Science Plan development. Kevin needs to take what has been developed and put into the template; unfortunately, his time is limited. Stay tuned.
 - **(Burr):** I talked with Kevin yesterday and he is still striving to have the MAC approve the Science Plan by the end of this calendar year.

Hole In The Rock Subcommittee Report (Pollock)

- Garfield County is considering applying for a \$15.4 million grant to upgrade the drainages and get some type of (gravel) surface material that is at least maintainable. Garfield would like to see the money used to upgrade the drainages the entire length of the road.

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- **(Clayson):** This program is a five-year funding cycle. Kane County has applied for grants for other roads; I believe we need to apply for HTR road and fully support submitting for the grant.
 - **(Hanceford):** This type work would require a NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) component, and we would be happy to help if we are brought in early.
 - **(Watts):** I would like to see a draft of the grant application to see what the scope of the work will be and the type of improvements as well as the prioritization. What I have noticed is that the road has gotten wider and wider over the years. I am concerned that the road is getting wider without the proper analysis.
 - **(Pollock):** Drainages are the primary concerns.
 - **(Beal):** The Monument Management Plan does allow for this type of work on wash-out prone areas (with NEPA). Surface upgrading would require a plan amendment.
 - **(Pollock):** At this point, the drainages are our focus.
 - **(Clayson):** These grants cannot be submitted by a federal agency; must come from counties; we invite the agency to submitted your recommendations for other projects that we might be able to get funding to complete.
 - **(Whitlock):** Does BLM have to endorse the application?
 - **(Clayson):** It is always helpful to have the agency support the application.
 - **(Burr):** MAC is supportive of improving the drainages with the caveat that we get to see the proposal first.
 - **Subcommittee Planning Effort (Beal):** Subcommittee met in the fall and came to conclusion we were not really sure what we should be planning for...what should the planning area look like. We created a map with five different zones. If we were to do a planning effort, we should look at the entire Escalante River corridor; including our partner, Glen Canyon Recreation Area.
 - **(Pollock):** How do we want to pursue the subcommittee work...via email...phone...face-to-face?
 - **(Watts):** Email is good for me...phone is also good. Many times its difficult to get us altogether for a face-to-face.
 - **(Hanceford):** MAC needs letter/definition of scope from GSENM to understand what it is that the subcommittee should do.
 - **Dance Hall Rock brief – (Beal)**
 - Counties agree with improvements for Dance Hall Rock. Church History group came – traditional cultural property – not sure they want to see parking lot or restrooms near or in view shed of the site.
 - **(Hanceford):** Extend invitation to church group/tribal into the HTR subcommittee. Leland agreed.

General Discussion

- **Continuing Staffing Issues**

- Currently cannot fund seasonal employees to man the Visitor Centers. Also, no money available for Grand Staircase Escalante Partners to continue funding the Paleo Lab Manager, the Education Specialist and the Site Steward Program.
 - **(Clayson):** Visitation in Kane County is up 30%. One idea to relieve the staffing crunch is to use more volunteers.
 - **(Burr):** Perhaps we need to send a letter to the BLM State Director regarding this issue?
 - **MOTION:** Send a revised letter similar to the one we sent last year to Rene regarding visitor center staffing – Watts/Pollock
 - Vote passes unanimously; Burr will send on behalf of MAC.
 - **(Pollock):** Utah Travel Council – might be a way to partner with them for a seasonal grant to help fund staff for visitor centers. Garfield County is hosting new state Tourism Director.

- **Future Meeting Topics:**

- GSENM will be coming to MAC with Recreation Fee Proposal – GSENM will share with MAC before they are submitted to the SO.
- Environmental education (field camps)? Cannonville might be able to be used; Escalante too.
- Future MAC Meetings via Webinars.
- **Action:** GSENM will provide more information of what's going on to the MAC, i.e., manager's reports, etc.
- **Action:** Minutes out by mid-June
- **Next Meeting:** Tuesday, October 8, at 1 p.m., through Wednesday, October 9, at 5 p.m. at the Monument Headquarters Building, 663 S. Hwy 89A, Kanab, Utah.
 - Discussion of possible agenda items included:
 - Rescheduled land health field trip
 - Division Briefs

Meeting Adjourned